

HOUSE No. 4369

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 31, 2012.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill relative to license plates in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2387), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4369

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY.

HOUSE No. 4369

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Twelve

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1 SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act, “enhanced recognition and identification registration
2 plate” shall be a registration plate that has the capability to incorporate:

3
4 (a) commonly recognizable symbols, which are easily identifiable, with each symbol having a
5 corresponding 3 character alpha-numeric reference, with not more than 2 characters identifying
6 the symbol and 1 character representing the location of the symbol on the plate, such that both
7 the symbol and the references may be placed in a variety of locations on the plate to maximize
8 the number of individual combinations that may be produced in conjunction with standard letters
9 and numbers;

10
11 (b) existing and innovative technologies and componentry to aid in the identification of
12 characters in conditions that result in poor-visibility, including, but not limited to, nighttime and
13 inclement weather;

14
15 (c) not more than 4 alpha-numeric characters; and

16

17 (d) distinctive and low-number plates, including plates authorized under sections 2 and 2E of
18 chapter 90 of the General Laws, as well as any distinctive registration plates issued by the
19 registrar under section 2F of said chapter 90.

20

21 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a special task force to analyze the feasibility of a
22 registration plate system utilizing enhanced recognition and identification registration plates. The
23 task force shall consist of the registrar of motor vehicles, who shall serve as the chair; the colonel
24 of the state police or a designee; a representative of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police
25 Association; a representative of the criminal justice information systems; a designee from the
26 Molly Bish Center for Missing and Exploited Children; the secretary of administration and
27 finance or a designee; a representative of the American Automobile Association; a representative
28 of the Massachusetts Correctional Industries; the secretary of the executive office of public
29 safety and security or a designee; a representative of the State Police Association of
30 Massachusetts; a member of a labor organization representing police officers designated by the
31 governor; a designee appointed by the senate president; a designee appointed by the minority
32 leader of the senate; a designee appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and a
33 designee appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

34 The study shall include, but not be limited to, short-term and long-term costs to the
35 commonwealth, time frame for implementation, impact on federal, state and local law
36 enforcement and between states and the tools and equipment necessary to produce enhanced
37 recognition and identification registration plates. The study shall assess: (i) human reaction to
38 numbers, letters, characters and symbols and the ability to cognitively process such numbers,

letters, characters and symbols; (ii) transportation-based factors including, but not limited to, the impact on toll revenues; (iii) interfaces with motor vehicle databases in other states including, without limitation, any licensing and registration system used by the registry of motor vehicles; and (iv) criminal information system accessibility.

The task force may conduct 1 or more public hearings to inform the public of its activities. The report of the task force shall be filed with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives not later than December 31, 2013.

SECTION 3. If designing, developing, procuring or implementing an information management system as a successor or replacement to its Automated License and Registration System, the registrar of motor vehicles shall, in good faith, attempt to ensure that such system is consistent with the technology necessary to effectively utilize enhanced recognition and identification registration plates. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of the registrar to make necessary changes and improvements to the current Automated License and Registration System, or limit the registrar from designing, developing, procuring or implementing a successor system that is not compliant with enhanced recognition and identification registration plates if the registrar determines a system compatible with enhanced recognition and identification registration plates is not in the best interest of the registry of motor vehicles or the commonwealth.